

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-01 ISO-00 EB-02 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: COM/BIC/CAGNE/LJENSEN:SIA

APPROVED BY: EB/OCA/CM/BEBYRON

COM/BIC/CAGNE/PBHALE

NEA/ARN/PBULLEN (INFO)

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R 012312Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS STATE 234183

BEIRUT FOR RTDC

FOLLOWING REPEAT ALGIERS 2098 ACTION SECSTATE 26 SEP 75

QUOTE

UNCLAS ALGIERS 2098

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, AG

SUBJECT: FOREIGN BUSINESS VISITOR, MUSTAPHA BOUARFA, DIRECTOR,
ALGERIAN NATIONAL EDP AUTHORITY.

REF: A) ALGIERS 1944, B) STATE 225848.

1. BOUARFA NOW BELIEVES VISIT WILL BE IN LATE JANUARY OR
FEBURARY 1975. EXACT DATES WILL BE CABLED WHEN AVAILABLE.
BOUARFA PLEASED COMMERCE HAS INFORMED US FIRMS LISTED REFTEL
A OF HIS INTEREST IN VISITING THEM. ALTHOUGH ALGERIAN
EMBASSY WASHINGTON WILL COORDINATE VISIT, BOUARFA PREFERS
APPOINTMENTS BE MADE BY DOC.

2. EMBOFF RELATED CONTENTS OF REFTEL B TO BOUARFA. HE
SURPRISED AND CONFUSED AND RELATED FOLLOWING: KHOURY,
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WHOM HE KNOWS, AND BERGFELD, WHOM HE DOES NOT KNOW, CAME

TO SEE HIM ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO. BERFELD SAID HE WAS US BUSINESSMAN ON OFFICIAL TRADE VISIT ON BEHALF US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. KHOURY CLAIMED TO HAVE RECENTLY COMPLETED MARKET RESEARCH IN EDP SECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST ON BEHALF OF US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. BERGFELD AND KHOURY SAID USDOC HAD DECIDED SPONSOR COMPUTER EXHIBITION FOR MIDDLE EAST, HAD ORIGINALLY SELECTED BEIRUT FOR SITE AND NOW HAS DECIDED TO CHANGE TO ALGIERS. PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO ASK BOUARFA IF EXHIBIT COULD BE HELD IN ALGIERS. BOUARFA SAID YES BUT MADE NO REPEAT NO OFFERS OF FREE TRANSPORTATION, ETC., (BOUARFA LATER SAID HE MIGHT POSSIBLY BE ABLE TO ARRANGE FOR LODGING FOR A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE BUT COULD PROMISE NOTHING). BOUARFA ALSO SAID IT NOT TRUE THAT COMMERCE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST WAS PRE-CONDITION FOR HIS VISIT. HE SAID EXHIBIT AND VISIT UNRELATED.

3. BOUARFA STATED ANY EXHIBIT HELD IN ALGIERS COULD NOT BE HELD IN OCTOBER, 1976, BECAUSE OF FAIR AND RAMADAN. HE SUGGESTED MAY, 1976. IN ANY CASE, GOA HAS NO PLANS FOR COMPUTER EXHIBIT OR SYMPOSIUM, BUT WOULD BE GLAD TO HOST ONE SPONSORED BY SOMEONE ELSE.

4. BOUARFA, MUCH CHAGRINED, HAS ASKED FOR COPY CONTENTS OF REFTEL B AND REQUESTED EMBOFF MAKE SURE KHOURY SEES HIM WHEN IN ALGIERS NEXT MONTH. IN VIEW UNCERTAIN AND CONFUSED SITUATION, EMBASSY ADVISES COMMERCE SUSPEND ANY PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN PROPOSED EXHIBIT.PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE234183
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: COM/BIC/CAGNE/LJENSEN:SIA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750341-1145
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751095/aaaadgqf.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ALGIERS 1944, 75 STATE 225848
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 SEP 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <18 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN BUSINESS VISITOR, MUSTAPHA BOUARFA, DIRECTOR, ALGERIAN NATIONAL EDP AUTHORITY.
TAGS: BEXP, AG
To: BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006